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Employment Situation, July 1983

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA

Local labor market conditions in the Bath-Brunswick Labor Market Area took a temporary tailspin in July. Between June and July resident employment increased from 23,970 to 24,060, while unemployment rose from 1,660 to 2,010. This combination resulted in the unemployment rate rising from 6.5 percent to 7.7 percent. Meanwhile, the state's unemployment rate increased from 8.6 percent in June to 10.0 percent in July, while the national rate dropped from 10.2 percent to 9.4 percent. Locally, seasonal layoffs in July occurred in apparel and other finished products, leather and leather products, and the local school system. On the other hand, employment increases were reported in food and kindred products, contract construction, wholesale and retail trade, and services. Last year at this time, 1,640 local residents were unemployed and the unemployment rate was 6.6 percent.

BIDDEFORD-SANFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Biddeford-Sanford Labor Market Area rose sharply to 12.6 percent in July from 9.1 percent in June. The major reason for this increase was the seasonal shutdown of several area factories, primarily in the textile and apparel industries. These shutdowns were a significant cause in the number of unemployed persons, rising from 3,100 in June to 4,400 in July. In the nonmanufacturing sector, seasonal increases were recorded in wholesale and retail trade and construction, while local government employment fell somewhat with the closing of local schools. The local unemployment rate of 12.6 percent in July was higher than both the state and nation, which registered rate of 10.0 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively. Last year at this time, the local unemployment rate was 12.7 percent.

LEWISTON-AUBURN STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

After four consecutive months of improvement, economic conditions in the Lewiston-Auburn SMSA suffered a temporary setback during July as many area manufacturing plants shut down for annual vacations. Overall local nonfarm wage and salary employment declined by 1,900 jobs between June and July. Almost all of these job losses were attributed to temporary shutdowns in the manufacturing sector. Employment in leather and leather products and textile mill products declined by 900 and 400 jobs, respectively, while rubber and miscellaneous products and metals and machinery lost 300 and 200 jobs, respectively. Other durable goods experienced a gain of 100 jobs. In the nonmanufacturing sector, seasonal job losses of 100 each were reported in transportation and public utilities and government. Contract construction gained 100 jobs. Resident employment fell from 36,300 in June to 34,400 in July, while unemployment rose from 3,700 to 6,200. This resulted in the local unemployment rate jumping from 9.3 percent to 15.3 percent. The corresponding state and national unemployment rates for July were 10.0 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively. Last year at this time, the unemployment rate for the Lewiston-Auburn SMSA stood at 15.5 percent.

PORTLAND STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

During July the unemployment rate rose to 6.8 percent from a June rate of 6.6 percent in the Portland SMSA. The statewide rate was 10.0 percent and the national unemployment rate was 9.4 percent. The SMSA rate represented 6,900 unemployed, an increase of 100 from the previous month. Employment fell to 95,200 in July from 96,000 in June, chiefly due to temporary seasonal closings of local schools and some manufacturing plants. Nonfarm wage and salary employment from June to July fell 900 to 97,400. Manufacturing employment dropped 400, as gains in paper and allied products were unable to offset seasonal losses in leather and leather products, metals and machinery, textiles, and apparel. A drop of 500 in nonmanufacturing employment was largely attributable to a decrease in local government employment, which declined as a result of the summer closings. Wholesale and retail trade rose once again, largely the result of the summer tourist season. This month's unemployment rate of 6.8 percent compares favorably to the 7.3 percent rate of a year ago.

RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The local unemployment rate in the Rumford Labor Market Area rose from 10.2 percent in June to 11.4 percent in July. Resident employment fell from 18,300 to 18,230, as annual vacation shutdowns in leather and leather products, coupled with seasonal layoffs of non-teaching personnel in local schools, more than offset seasonal employment increases in contract construction and services. Total joblessness in the area rose from 2,080 in June to 2,340 in July. Last year at this time, 2,430 local residents were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 11.8 percent. This July's unemployment rate exceeds the corresponding state and national rates of 10.0 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively.

WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA

The employment situation in the Waterville Labor Market Area improved slightly in July. Increased employment coupled with a small decline in the number unemployed resulted in an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent, 0.1 percentage points below the rate in June. This rate compares favorably with the state and national unemployment rates of 10.0 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively. In the local area, employment rose from 21,190 in June to 21,450 in July, while the number unemployed fell slightly from 2,200 to 2,190. A year ago 1,990 residents were unemployed, and the unemployment rate stood at 9.0 percent.



CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES¹

AREAS	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	July 83 ²	June 83 ²	July 82 ³	July 83	June 83	July 82	July 83	June 83	July 82	July 83	June 83	July 82
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
AUGUSTA	30,360	30,060	29,480	2,940	2,270	2,750	9.7	7.6	9.3	27,420	27,790	26,730
BANGOR-BREWER	46,300	45,500	41,800	4,500	3,500	3,700	9.7	7.7	8.9	41,800	42,000	38,100
BATH-BRUNSWICK	26,070	25,630	24,760	2,010	1,660	1,640	7.7	6.5	6.6	24,060	23,970	23,120
BELFAST	12,000	11,130	11,110	1,720	1,370	1,510	14.3	12.3	13.6	10,280	9,760	9,600
BIDDEFORD-SANFORD	34,900	33,900	33,800	4,400	3,100	4,300	12.6	9.1	12.7	30,500	30,800	29,500
BOOTHBAY HARBOR-WISCASSET	10,170	9,230	9,570	680	640	530	6.7	6.9	5.5	9,490	8,590	9,040
CALAIS-EASTPORT	16,200	15,370	15,930	1,950	2,150	1,910	12.0	14.0	12.0	14,250	13,220	14,020
CARIBOU-PRESQUE ISLE	21,530	22,160	20,840	3,090	2,820	3,260	14.4	12.7	15.6	18,440	19,340	17,580
CENTRAL PENOBSCOT	3,920	3,760	3,670	340	280	340	8.7	7.4	9.3	3,580	3,480	3,330
DOVER-FOXCROFT	7,330	7,310	7,360	710	640	1,000	9.7	8.8	13.6	6,620	6,670	6,360
ELLSWORTH	25,080	21,890	22,850	1,700	1,610	1,350	6.8	7.4	5.9	23,380	20,280	21,500
FARMINGTON	13,520	13,410	13,110	1,470	1,170	1,260	10.9	8.7	9.6	12,050	12,240	11,850
FORT KENT-ALLAGASH	5,500	5,440	5,270	530	680	610	9.6	12.5	11.6	4,970	4,760	4,660
GREENVILLE	1,600	1,480	1,510	100	110	100	6.3	7.4	6.6	1,500	1,370	1,410
HOULTON	5,450	5,460	5,170	790	660	730	14.5	12.1	14.1	4,660	4,800	4,400
KITTERY-YORK	26,600	25,120	24,690	1,020	810	910	3.8	3.2	3.7	25,580	24,310	23,780
LEWISTON-AUBURN SMSA	40,600	40,000	38,800	6,200	3,700	6,000	15.3	9.3	15.5	34,400	36,300	32,800
LINCOLN-HOWLAND	5,890	5,760	5,640	620	550	630	10.5	9.5	11.2	5,270	5,210	5,010
LIVERMORE FALLS	6,600	6,240	6,230	1,170	730	950	17.7	11.7	15.2	5,430	5,510	5,280
MADAWASKA-VAN BUREN	4,850	4,890	4,680	550	600	580	11.3	12.3	12.4	4,300	4,290	4,100
MECHANIC FALLS	3,680	2,970	3,330	530	340	540	14.4	11.4	16.2	3,150	2,630	2,790
MILLINOCKET-EAST MILLINOCKET	5,620	5,510	5,390	560	460	370	10.0	8.3	6.9	5,060	5,050	5,020
PATTEN-ISLAND FALLS	2,730	2,700	2,690	290	310	300	10.6	11.5	11.2	2,440	2,390	2,390
PORTLAND SMSA	102,100	102,800	94,800	6,900	6,800	6,900	6.8	6.6	7.3	95,200	96,000	87,900
ROCKLAND	17,930	17,700	18,510	1,760	1,700	1,370	9.8	9.6	7.4	16,170	16,000	17,140
RUMFORD	20,570	20,380	20,520	2,340	2,080	2,430	11.4	10.2	11.8	18,230	18,300	18,090
SEBAGO LAKES REGION	13,500	11,430	12,700	970	920	1,020	7.2	8.0	8.0	12,530	10,510	11,680
SKOWHEGAN	22,500	23,140	20,310	3,340	2,650	3,500	14.8	11.5	17.2	19,160	20,490	16,810
SOUTHWEST PENOBSCOT	8,000	8,750	9,260	1,200	1,030	2,180	15.0	11.8	23.5	6,800	7,720	7,080
WATERVILLE	23,640	23,390	22,230	2,190	2,200	1,990	9.3	9.4	9.0	21,450	21,190	20,240
STATES: ⁴												
MAINE	564.6	552.4	536.0	56.5	47.5	54.6	10.0	8.6	10.2	508.1	504.9	481.4
CONNECTICUT	1,632.9	1,638.3	1,625.9	103.2	104.6	114.4	6.3	6.4	7.0	1,529.7	1,533.7	1,511.4
MASSACHUSETTS	3,046.0	3,025.0	3,096.3	190.0	226.0	298.0	6.2	7.5	9.6	2,856.0	2,799.0	2,798.3
NEW HAMPSHIRE	512.2	505.8	508.2	28.8	23.7	46.2	5.6	4.7	9.1	483.4	482.1	462.0
RHODE ISLAND	480.8	477.5	485.1	44.5	39.8	56.3	9.3	8.3	11.6	436.3	437.7	428.8
VERMONT	N/A	262.0	268.2	N/A	18.4	17.4	N/A	7.0	6.5	N/A	243.6	250.9
NEW ENGLAND STATES ⁴	N/A	6,461.0	6,519.7	N/A	460.0	586.9	N/A	7.1	9.0	N/A	6,001.0	5,932.8
UNITED STATES ⁴	113,980	113,383	112,526	10,707	11,570	11,036	9.4	10.2	9.8	103,273	101,813	101,490

¹ All estimates shown are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates for the State and sub-State areas have been benchmarked to the latest Current Population Survey estimates for the State.

² Preliminary estimates.

³ Revised estimates.

⁴ In thousands.

N/A Not Available

Labor Market Information Services

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

JULY 1983

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

Employment in the Augusta Labor Market Area followed historical trends and declined in July. Due in large part to seasonal layoffs in leather and leather products and apparel, total resident employment fell from 27,790 in June to 27,420 in July. Seasonal gains in nonmanufacturing were not enough to offset the losses in the manufacturing sector. At the same time, the number unemployed rose from 2,270 in June to 2,940 in July. The combination of rising unemployment and lowered employment resulted in a July unemployment rate of 9.7 percent, well above the rate of 7.6 percent recorded in June. The July rate for the nation was 9.4 percent, slightly below the rate for the state of 10.0 percent. A year ago the local unemployment rate was 9.3 percent. At that time 26,730 persons were employed and 2,750 were jobless.

BANGOR-BREWER LABOR MARKET AREA

An increase in the number of unemployed helped boost the Bangor-Brewer Labor Market Area unemployment rate from 7.7 percent in June to 9.7 percent in July. Total unemployment rose from 3,500 to 4,500. Last year at this time 3,700 residents were unemployed, and the rate stood at 8.9 percent. Vacation shutdowns in the textile mill products and leather and leather products industries were primarily responsible for higher unemployment in July. Employment losses were also evidenced in local government, as schools closed for the summer. Resident employment edged downward by 200 to 41,800. Employment gains in food and kindred products; petroleum and coal products; and stone, clay, and glass products were offset by sharp losses in textile mill products and leather and leather products. All major industry groups in the nonmanufacturing sector recorded increases in employment.

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